

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SY-05 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04  
DODE-00 /041 W  
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O 071010Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5722

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

OCP WASHDC CODE 05 IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR AEAGA-C IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR J-1 IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR J-5 IMMEDIATE

COMFAIRMED IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: LABOR PROBLEMS WITHIN EMBASSY BUILDING RESOLVED

1. SIT-IN WITHIN EMBASSY BUILDING BY SOME 25 UNION REPRESENTATIVES (REPORTED BY TELCON TO OPCENTER WATCH OFFICER PERITO) WAS RESOLVED AT 0300 HOURS LOCAL TIME, JULY 7. SIT-IN GREW OUT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CPCC), WHICH IS US MILITARY MANAGEMENT TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING LABOR RELATIONS WITH THE TWO ITALIAN UNIONS (FILTAT/CISL AND UIDATCA/UIL) WHICH REPRESENT LOCAL NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY US FORCES IN ITALY, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO UNIONS. THESE DISCUSSIONS, HELD AS USUAL (THOUGH FOR THE LAST TIME) ON EMBASSY PREMISES, HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ANNUALLY FOR MANY YEARS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF ISSUES BEARING ON WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

2. SIT-IN TACTIC, WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN THESE DISCUSSIONS,  
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DERIVES ESSENTIALLY FROM THE EMERGENCE WITHIN THE UNION RANKS OF NEW YOUNG MILITANTS WHO SEEM BENT ON ESTABLISHING A TOUGH REPUTATION. THE IMPASSE, WHICH COMMENCED AT ABOUT 1800 HOURS JULY 6 AFTER MORE THAN EIGHT HOURS OF DISCUSSION (THERE HAD ALSO BEEN SIX HOURS OF DISCUSSION ON JULY 5), INVOLVED THESE TWO UNION DEMANDS: A) CPCC AGREEMENT TO IMPLEMENT A SINGLE GRADING PLAN ON OCTOBER 1, 1977, EVEN THOUGH THE BILATERAL COMMITTEE

WHICH IS TO ARTICULATE THE PLAN HAS NOT YET EVEN BEGUN ITS DELIBERATIONS, AND B) THE SIGNING BY BOTH SIDES OF A PROTOCOL, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, OUTLINING THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AND/OR THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS THEMSELVES. UNLESS THESE TWO DEMANDS WERE AGREED TO, THE UNION REPS WOULD REFUSE TO LEAVE THE PREMISES AND WOULD CONDUCT A "HUNGER STRIKE."

3. CPCC RESPONSE WAS THAT A) THEY COULD NOT REALLY AGREE TO A FIRM IMPLEMENTATION DATE ON A PLAN WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMULATED, ALTHOUGH THE CPCC WAS WILLING TO COMMIT ITSELF TO IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE PLAN'S FORMULATION (WHICH MIGHT WELL BE BEFORE OCTOBER 1); AND B) THEY WERE PREPARED TO REACH A FAVORABLE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE TO WRITING THE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE CPCC FIRMLY OPPOSED MAINTENANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS UNDER THE ULTIMATUM CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE UNION REPS AND, GIVEN THE LATENESS OF THE HOUR, PROPOSED THAT DISCUSSIONS RESUME THE NEXT DAY.

4. THE UNION REPS, EVIDENTLY BENT ON CREATING A DEADLOCK SITUATION, REJECTED THE CPCC RESPONSE AND PREPARED FOR AN EXTENDED SIEGE. GIOVANNI GATTI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF UIDATCA/UIL, WAS CALLED IN TO HELP RESOLVE THE SITUATION, BUT HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS BY CPCC MEMBERS WERE SIMILARLY UNAVAILING. THE LABOR ATTACHE WAS FINALLY ABLE TO LOCATE ENZO LEOLINI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FILTAT/CISL, WHO ARRIVED

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AT THE EMBASSY AFTER MIDNIGHT. THE SITUATION WAS DESCRIBED TO HIM AND THE CPCC POSITIONS REITERATED. WHILE LEOLINI WAS CONFERRING WITH THE UNION REPS, UPI INQUIRED AS TO WHAT WAS GOING ON. THE MATTER HAD COME TO UPI'S ATTENTION THROUGH A PRESS STATEMENT, CARRIED BY THE ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY ANSA, RELEASED BY THE UNION SIDE. UPI WAS TOLD THAT A) PROTRACTED, DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS WERE GOING ON, THAT B) SUCH DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD EVERY YEAR, AND THAT C) WE WERE HOPEFUL THE UNION REPS WOULD AGREE TO ADJOURN THE DISCUSSIONS FOR RESUMPTION AT A LATER HOUR. LAST NIGHT, WE RECEIVED A SIMILAR INQUIRY FROM AP, PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON THE INCIDENT AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENTS LATER LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING.

5. THE MATTER WAS FINALLY RESOLVED THROUGH LEOLINI'S GOOD OFFICES AT 0300 HOURS. THE CPCC REPRESENTATIVES AGREED TO FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE UNION PROPOSALS, WHICH ESSENTIALLY WERE VARIANTS ON CPCC'S PREVIOUS POSITIONS, FIRMLY REJECTING ONLY ONE MATTER: THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD NOT RPT NOT RESUME WITHIN EMBASSY PREMISES. THE UNION REPS WERE TOLD THEY HAD IN ESSENCE ABUSED THE EMBASSY'S HOSPITALITY, AND THAT THE TALKS WOULD HENCEFORTH BE HELD EITHER AT UNION HEADQUARTERS OR A NEUTRAL SITE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD RESUME

AT 1100 HOURS JULY 7 AT FILTAT/CISL HEADQUARTERS IN ROME.

6. THE POLICE LEARNED OF THE IMPASSE THROUGH THEIR OWN SOURCES, AND A POLICE CAPTAIN CAME TO THE EMBASSY TO BE BRIEFED ON THE MATTER. THE CAPTAIN INDICATED THE POLICE WOULD BE PLEASE TO COOPERATE IF CALLED UPON, BUT WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, INTERVENE UNLESS ASKED TO DO SO.

7. COMMENT: EVIDENTLY, THE UNION REPS SOUGHT TO EMBARRASS THE US FORCES (AND THE EMBASSY) BY PROVOKING A RIGID, UNATTRACTIVE SITUATION WHICH WOULD DRAW FAVORABLE ATTENTION TO THEIR MILITANCY. THE REASONABLE, CIVILIZED ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY ALL ON THE AMERICAN SIDE (FOR EXAMPLE, THE WATER SUPPLY AND AIR CONDITIONING WAS MAINTAINED, AND THERE WAS FREE ACCESS TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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REST ROOMS, THOUGH THE PHONES WERE CUT OFF), PLUS THE EFFECTIVE MEDIATIONAL ROLE PLAYED BY LEOLINI (AND, NO DOUBT, THE FATIGUE OF THE UNION REPS) SERVED IN THE END TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION. AT PLAY HERE, AS IN SO MANY AREAS THROUGHOUT THE ITALIAN LABOR SITUATION, IS THE INABILITY OF TOP LABOR LEADERS TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES OF LOCAL UNION REPS. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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